

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4185
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
USDEL SECRETARY JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USMISSION USNATO

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BRUSSELS ALSO FOR USEEC

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PEPR, GR, TU, GR
SUBJECT: REACTION TO ANNOUNCEMENT OF SECRETARY VANCE'S TRIP TO
ATHENS AND UNSYG WALDHEIM'S REMARKS TO THE PRESS

REF: ATHENS 0470

1. SUMMARY: THE ANNOUNCEMENT THAT SECRETARY VANCE WOULD BE
COMING TO ANKARA AND ATHENS LATER THIS WEEK WAS THE TOP STORY
IN THE GREEK MEDIA TODAY (JANUARY 18), ECLIPSING IN LARGE PART
COVERAGE OF THE CONCLUSION OF UNSYG WALDHEIM'S VISIT HERE.
DRAWING FROM WIRE SERVICE STORIES FILED FROM JERUSALEM JANUARY 17,
PRESS REPORTING IN PARTICULAR CAST THE SECRETARY'S TRIP IN TERMS OF
HIS
BECOMING A "MEDIATOR" IN THE CYPRUS AND AEGEAN PROBLEMS.
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ANDREAS PAPANDREOU, THE LEADER OF THE PRINCIPAL OPPOSITION
PANHELLENIC SOCIALIST MOVEMENT (PASOK), ISSUED A STATEMENT
CRITICIZING THE SECRETARY'S VISIT. FOR HIS PART, UNSYG WALDHEIM, IN A
PRESS CONFERENCE AFTER HIS FINAL MEETINGS WITH GOG OFFICIALS
YESTERDAY, REFUSED TO BE PUSHED BY REPORTERS ON THE SECRETARY'S
TRIP. HE NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT HE HAD LEARNED OF SECRETARY
VANCE'S VISIT ONLY THE DAY BEFORE, THAT HE THOUGHT THE SECRETARY

OF STATE WANTED TO GET FIRSTHAND INFORMATION ON THE SITUATION IN THE AREA, THAT THE SECRETARY WOULD NOT HEAR MORE THAN HE, WALDHEIM, HAD HEARD, AND FINALLY THAT THE VISIT WOULD NOT UPSET THE UNSYG'S PRESENT EFFORTS ON CYPRUS. END SUMMARY.

2. SECRETARY VANCE'S FORTHCOMING TRIP TO ANKARA AND ATHENS WAS FEATURED IN THE GREEK MEDIA TODAY. ALTHOUGH ALL NEWSPAPERS CARRIED THE GOG ANNOUNCEMENT THAT THE SECRETARY WILL VISIT GREECE, IN RESPONSE TO A GOG INVITATION, TO DISCUSS MATTERS OF COMMON INTERESTS (ATHENS 450), PRESS HEADLINES, BASED ON UPI AND AP STORIES FILED FROM JERUSALEM YESTERDAY, ANNOUNCED THE SECRETARY WAS ASSUMING THE ROLE OF "MEDIATOR" IN THE CYPRUS AND AEGEAN QUESTIONS. WHILE THE PRO-GOVERNMENT AND CONSERVATIVE NEWSPAPERS CARRIED RELATIVELY STRAIGHTFORWARD REPORTING, THE LIBERAL/LEFTIST OPPOSITION PRESS STRESSED IN PARTICULAR THAT THE SECRETARY'S GOAL WAS TO CREATE A SITUATION IN GREEK-TURKISH RELATIONS WHICH WOULD PERMIT THE LIFTING OF THE U.S. EMBARGO FOR TURKEY. LIBERAL TO VIMA ADDED THAT THE SECRETARY WOULD BE BRINGING TO GREEK PRIME MINISTER CARAMANLIS TURKISH PRIME MINISTER ECEVIT'S OFFICIAL PROPOSALS FOR A SOLUTION OF THE CYPRUS PROBLEM WITH THE ULTIMATE OBJECTIVE IN HIS MEDIATORY EFFORT BEING THE REALIZATION OF A CARAMANLIS-ECEVIT MEETING. LEFTIST TA NEA, WHICH HAS THE LARGEST CIRCULATION OF ALL GREEK NEWSPAPERS, CLAIMED THAT IN ADDITION TO SEEKING THE LIFTING OF THE EMBARGO, THE ULTIMATE OBJECTIVE OF THE "COORDINATED PRESSURES" ON GREECE WAS A FINAL SOLUTION OF THE TWO PROBLEMS OF CYPRUS AND THE AEGEAN AS A PACKAGE -- WHICH, SO FAR AT LEAST, THE UNCLASSIFIED

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GREEK SIDE HAS RESISTED. THESE PRESSURES, ACCORDING TO TA NEA, BEGAN WITH THE VISIT OF THE U.S. SENATORS OVER THE WEEKEND (I.E., CODEL WILLIAMS/STEVENS), OF THE UNSYG -- WHO SPOKE OF A POSSIBLE DETERIORATION IN THE SITUATION IF THERE IS NO PROGRESS ON CYPRUS -- AND NOW WITH THE "SELF-INVITED" VISIT OF SECRETARY VANCE.

3. PRINCIPAL OPPOSITION LEADER ANDREAS PAPANDREOU, HEAD OF THE PASOK PARTY, ISSUED A STATEMENT IN WHICH HE ATTACKED THE SECRETARY'S VISIT. HE SAID MR VANCE WAS NOT COMING TO ATHENS AS A "MEDIATOR" APPOINTED BY THE UN SECRETARY GENERAL. AND EVEN IF HE WERE, PAPANDREOU CONTINUED, IT WOULD BE A MISTAKE BECAUSE THE SECRETARY REPRESENTS THE COUNTRY MAINLY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE CYPRUS TRAGEDY AND BECAUSE IT WOULD BE A TRAGIC REPETITION OF U THANT'S CHOICE OF DEAN ACHESON AS A MEDIATOR IN 1964. PAPANDREOU CLAIMED THAT THE SECRETARY'S VISIT CONFIRMS HIS EARLIER CHARGE THAT THERE WOULD BE A "BARRAGE OF PRESSURES" ON THE GREEK GOVERNMENT TO MAKE CONCESSIONS AND THAT THE VISIT WAS ALREADY A FIRST CONCESSION. HE ASKED WHY PRIME MINISTER CARAMANLIS IS RECEIVING MR VANCE, CLAIMING THE VISIT WOULD CONSTITUTE A BLATANT DEINTERNATIONALIZATION OF THE CYPRUS ISSUE.

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4. AFTER WRAPPING UP HIS MEETINGS WITH GREEK OFFICIALS YESTERDAY, UNSYG WALDHEIM HELD A PRESS CONFERENCE IN THE AFTERNOON IN WHICH HE BROKE LITTLE NEW GROUND BEYOND HIS EARLIER PUBLIC REMARKS IN ATHENS (REFTEL). HE EXPRESSED SATISFACTION OVER HIS CONSULTATIONS IN ANKARA, NICOSIA, AND ATHENS, SAYING THAT A NEW SITUATION ON THE CYPRUS QUESTION HAD NOW DEVELOPED WITH THE TURKISH CYPRIOT PROMISE TO PUT FORWARD CONCRETE PROPOSALS FOR THE FIRST TIME ON THE TERRITORIAL ISSUE, INCLUDING A MAP, AND REVISIONS OF THEIR EARLIER CONSTITUTIONAL PROPOSALS. HE COMMENTED THAT WHILE ECEVIT HAD NOT ELABORATED ON THE CONTENT OF THE PROMISED PROPOSALS, THE TURKISH PRIME MINISTER HAD ASSURED HIM THEY WOULD BE SERIOUS PROPOSALS AND THAT HE WANTED TO SOLVE THE CYPRUS PROBLEM. WALDHEIM ALSO ACKNOWLEDGED THAT IF EITHER SIDE HAD "RESERVATIONS" DURING THE CONSULTATION PROCESS ON THE NEW PROPOSALS, AMENDMENTS COULD BE MADE.

5. RESPONDING TO QUESTIONS, WALDHEIM SAID HE DID NOT FORESEE ANY DEVELOPMENTS OCCURRING IN CYPRUS UNTIL AFTER THE CYPRIOT
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PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION IN FEBRUARY. COMMENTING ON SECRETARY VANCE'S

TRIP HE SAID HE HAD ONLY LEARNED ABOUT IT THE DAY BEFORE. THE
UNSYG STATED HE THOUGHT THE SECRETARY WANTED TO GET FIRST-HAND
INFORMATION ON THE SITUATION IN THE AREA. HE CONTINUED THAT
HE DID NOT BELIEVE MR VANCE WOULD HEAR MORE THAN HE, HIMSELF,
HAD HEARD AND THAT THE SECRETARY'S TRIP WOULD NOT UPSET HIS OWN
EFFORTS IN THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN. HE PROFESSED NO KNOWLEDGE
OF ANOTHER TRIP TO THE AREA BY CLARK CLIFFORD. FINALLY, WALDHEIM
ACKNOWLEDGED THAT HIS OWN EFFORT WAS NOT THE ONLY POSSIBLE
SOLUTION TO THE CYPRUS PROBLEM, BUT WARNED THAT IF IT FAILED THE
SITUATION IN CYPRUS WOULD DETERIORATE.
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